

ROUTER SOFTWARE UPGRADE EMPLOYING REDUNDANT PROCESSORS

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for replacing software controlling active routers while minimizing impact on network operation are provided by virtue of one embodiment of the present invention. The software replacement process takes advantage of packet processor redundancy. An active packet switching device to be reprogrammed is deactivated and a redundant packet switching device takes over. The no longer active packet switching device is reprogrammed before being reactivated.